Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3

Corn harvest is underway, mostly in the southwestern areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Hot, dry weather during the week helped corn and soybeans advance toward maturity. Major farm activities during the week included preparing equipment for fall harvest, baling hay, cleaning out grain bins, mowing roads, selling grain and chopping silage.

CORN

Corn **condition** declined and is rated 76 percent good to excellent compared with 79 percent last week and 29 percent last year at this time. Virtually all of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage. Eighty-eight percent of the corn acreage is in the **dent** stage, on par with a year ago, but ahead of the 59 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 83 percent of the corn acreage is in the dent stage in the north, 95 percent in the central region and 85 percent in the south. Twenty-two percent of the corn acreage is **mature** compared with 22 percent last year and 13 percent for the average. One percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** , on par with a year earlier at this time.

SOYBEANS

Soybean **condition** also declined and is rated 66 percent good to excellent compared with 68 percent last week and 25 percent last year. Twenty-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 23 percent a year earlier and 13 percent for the average. Five percent of the soybean acreage is reported as **mature** compared with 5 percent a year ago, but ahead of the 4 percent for the average.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 11 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 28 percent fair, 6 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. **Tobacco** harvest is 45 percent complete compared with 52 percent last year and 33 percent for the 5-year average.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 6.2 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork** . **Topsoil moisture** was rated 7 percent very short, 23 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 8 percent very short, 27 percent short, 59 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn in Dent	88	68	88	59
Corn Mature	22	9	22	13
Corn Harvested	1	NA	1	0
Soybeans Shedding Lv	28	10	23	13
Soybeans Mature	5	0	5	4
Tobacco Harvested	45	30	52	33

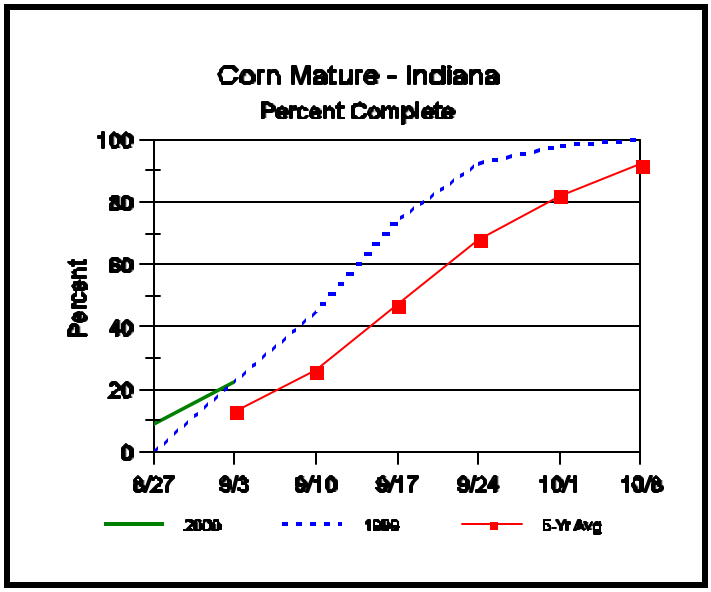
CROP CONDITION

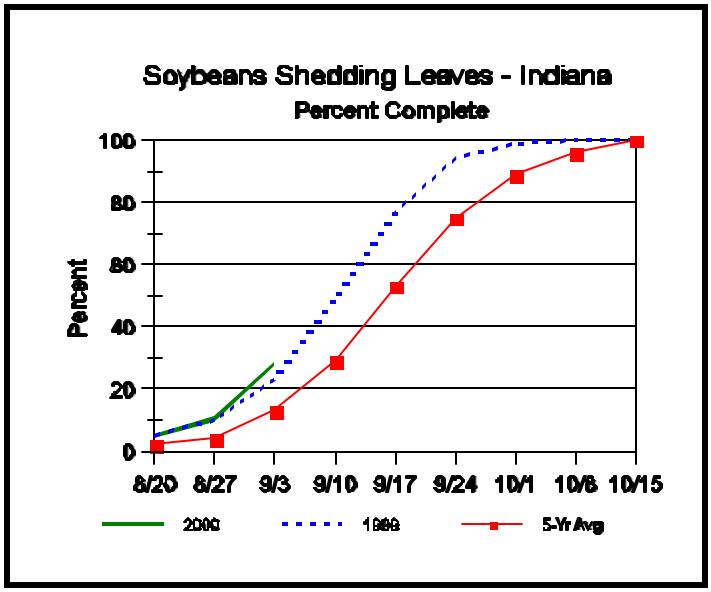
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Corn	1	4	19	53	23
Soybeans	2	7	25	51	15
Pasture	1	6	28	54	11

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	4	45
Short	23	15	42
Adequate	61	69	13
Surplus	9	12	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	8	8	44
Short	27	21	44
Adequate	59	63	12
Surplus	6	8	0

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html





It's Never Too Late to Walk Your Fields

- Some stalk rots beginning to appear
- Some odd ear formation being reported

The coffeeshop talk always thins out as September approaches and folks begin to gear up for fall harvest. Part of the reason for the paucity (I learned a new word recently!) of gossip is that fewer people are out walking their fields than earlier in the season. However, I want to raise a couple of issues that I think are potentially important for corn growers to consider before harvest begins.

First of all, stalk rots and lodging are developing here and there throughout the state. In the fields that I have walked, the stalk rots are occurring in either random plants throughout the field or in many plants in smaller stressed areas of the field. The affected plants are dying prematurely, causing the grain to also mature earlier than expected.

At the onset of the disease, the affected plants exhibit a gray-green appearance as the plant tissue slowly dies, eventually bleaching out to a straw color as complete death occurs. Healthy or less infected plants nearby will still be green and healthier. In one field earlier this week, grain of healthy plants was at early to mid-dent stage while that of the diseased plants was already beginning to black layer. The affected plants eventually collapse at the lower nodes and fall over or lodge.

The bottom line from these observations is that farmers should be walking their fields during the next several weeks and determining whether stalk rots and the resulting stalk lodging are developing in individual fields. If so, then grain harvest should not be delayed any longer than necessary in order to avoid potentially significant mechanical harvest losses due to the severe stalk lodging.

Another interesting phenomenon I wanted to mention is that I have had a handful of reports in the last week or so of stunted or arrested ear development in plants that otherwise look normal. The affected ears are reminiscent of the so-called 'beer-can ear syndrome' that was widely observed back in 1992 and in some years since. I was recently in a variety plot where one hybrid in particular exhibited quite a few ears that were severely stunted.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday September 3, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2000 thru September 3, 2000				
								Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	92	62	76	+9	0.00	0		22.03	+1.74	67	2387	-18
Wanatah	93	58	76	+9	0.00	0	84	21.46	+1.73	58	2305	+3
Wheatfield	92	59	77	+10	0.00	0		21.11	+1.87	47	2475	+119
Winamac	92	60	76	+9	0.00	0	80	18.77	-0.71	52	2421	-6
North Central (2)												
Logansport	94	61	77	+9	0.00	0		19.99	+1.32	61	2509	+12
Plymouth	90	61	76	+7	0.00	0		22.30	+2.65	63	2313	-233
South_Bend	93	63	77	+10	0.00	0		18.87	-0.13	63	2376	-17
Young_America	93	58	76	+8	0.00	0		17.68	-0.99	56	2550	+53
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	90	60	75	+7	0.00	0	69	20.35	+1.70	63	2496	-66
Fort_Wayne	88	60	74	+6	0.00	0		21.27	+3.75	56	2471	-29
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	93	59	75	+6	0.00	0	76	19.16	-1.46	53	2420	-254
Perrysville	92	62	76	+7	0.07	1	80	17.89	-2.96	58	2611	-10
Terre_Haute_Ag	94	66	80	+10	0.20	1	76	27.36	+6.65	61	3021	+228
W_Lafayette_6NW	94	57	77	+9	0.00	0	77	17.82	-1.61	60	2586	+101
Central (5)												
Castleton	90	61	76	+6	0.00	0		25.29	+5.10	73	2645	-113
Greenfield	89	61	76	+7	0.00	0		24.43	+2.91	65	2660	+1
Greensburg	89	63	76	+8	0.00	0		24.64	+3.65	69	2741	+150
Indianapolis_AP	91	64	78	+8	0.00	0		21.01	+1.44	55	2817	+45
Indianapolis_SE	89	62	76	+5	0.00	0		23.35	+3.16	57	2612	-146
Tipton_Ag	90	58	75	+8	0.00	0	78	18.80	-0.93	58	2354	-61
East Central (6)												
Farmland	89	57	74	+7	0.00	0	72	24.49	+5.35	63	2445	+87
New_Castle	89	57	73	+5	0.00	0		22.54	+1.82	58	2181	-235
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	91	66	78	+7	0.00	0	81	24.88	+2.31	65	2994	+179
Evansville	91	68	79	+7	0.03	1		20.59	+0.92	61	3204	-8
Freelandville	90	65	78	+7	0.00	0		26.50	+5.98	53	2921	+36
Shoals	90	66	77	+7	0.00	0		27.84	+5.56	64	2793	+0
Vincennes_5NE	93	66	79	+8	0.00	0	76	28.82	+8.42	59	2948	+63
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	91	63	77	+6	0.00	0		21.87	+0.98	53	2681	-152
Tell_City	90	68	79	+7	0.56	1		23.49	+0.90	51	3144	+61
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	90	63	76	+5	0.00	0		28.91	+7.71	55	2941	+70

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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It's Never Too Late to Walk Your Fields

(Continued)

Of the reports I have received, there appears to be no common herbicide link as a possible contributing cause. The reports have been too few to yet indicate whether the problem is occurring within a particular hybrid pedigree. Plants whose ear(s) are severely stunted will often turn a vivid purplish-red due to the imbalance between available photosynthate and the paucity (there's that word again!) of kernels. If you've observed this problem, I would appreciate hearing about it.

Don't forget, this and other timely information about corn can be viewed at the Chat 'n Chew Café on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kingcorn.org/cafe>. For other information about corn, take a look at the Corn Growers' Guidebook on the World Wide Web at <http:/ /www.kingcorn.org/>.

Source: Bob Nielsen, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University.

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